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Deputy Director for Plans

5 April 1951

Acting Assistant Director for Operations

Dr. Harold J. Coolidge's Proposal for Exploitation of Certain Japanese Sources

- REF : a. Memorandum dated 15 March 1951 from AD/RN to AD/PG, AD/CD and AD/O, Subject: Proposal for exploitation of certain Japanese sources
- b. Message from AD/O [ ] to AD/O dated 2 April 1951

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1. On 25 January 1951, Dr. Harold Coolidge of the National Research Council proposed to AD/O that CIA immediately undertake the procurement and utilization of unexploited studies carried out by Japanese pure and social scientists prior to 1945 in areas in and around the Pacific Basin. AD/O arranged a conference for Dr. Coolidge with O/RN representatives. On 27 January 1951, a conference was arranged by O/RN, at which Dr. Coolidge expressed his views. The conference was attended by representatives of O/PG, O/RN, O/SO, O/GI, O/SI, O/CD, the Department of State and the Library of Congress. Thereafter, O/RN conferred with various interested parties, carefully studied the proposal and determined that "the chance of obtaining useful information from Japanese materials still in Japan is too nebulous, and the type of information that might be gained is not high enough on priority lists to justify diversion of effort from more urgently needed and more promising projects" (see Reference a, attached).

2. Having just returned from a trip to Tokyo, Dr. Coolidge called on the Acting AD/O on 23 March 1951 to informally supply certain additional information and to express his very strong conviction that CIA should undertake this project as a matter of urgency. He also conferred with the Deputy Director for Plans on 24 March 1951. As a result, the AD/O, [ ] was requested to make an on-the-spot investigation. The AD/O has advised that documents included in Dr. Coolidge's proposal are a very limited number of World War II captured documents, but mostly concern uncaptured and unpublished diaries, original studies, and notes in possession of various Japanese citizens who participated in occupation of Japanese-occupied countries during World War II. He also advised that salaries alone to undertake the project would cost [ ] excluding overseas differential, and that AD/SI and AD/RN should decide whether the project is worthwhile (see Reference b, attached).

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3. AD/RB and AD/SI have been furnished all information supplied by Dr. Coolidge and by the AD/O as a result of his on-the-spot investigation [redacted] and have advised this Office that they do not consider the proposed project to be worthwhile.

h. It is recommended that CIA not pursue the proposed project further, and that the attached letter be signed and dispatched to Dr. Coolidge.

L. K. WHITE

Attachment - Proposed letter to Dr. J. Coolidge

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 April 1951

Dr. Harold J. Coolidge  
Pacific Science Board  
National Research Council  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Coolidge:

We have carefully considered your proposal for the exploitation of certain Japanese sources which you discussed with Central Intelligence Agency representatives in January and again in March after your return from Japan. We have also conducted an on-the-spot investigation in Tokyo.

Since we are very much aware of your keen personal interest in this matter, we regret to advise you that we have concluded that the information which might be gained is not high enough on our priority list to warrant diversion of funds and effort from more urgent projects.

Your interest in the Central Intelligence Agency and your offer to assist with this particular project is greatly appreciated.

s/

A. W. Dulles  
Deputy Director, Plans

LWwhite:as - 5 April 1951

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